Employees Union had submitted a memorandum dated 26th November, 1987 requesting for the take-over of the company by the Government of India. The matter regarding this company is already before the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction for examination under the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Act, 1985.

Telecommunication services in Tripura

2616. SHRI NARAYAN KAR: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the subdivisional headquarters in Tripura remain delinked due to telecommunications difficulties;

(b) whether it is also a fact that 60 per cent of telephones of Agartala Town remain out of order for most of the time; and

(c) if so, what steps have been taken to improve telecommunications service in Tripura?

THE MINISTER OF ENERGY AND THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI VASANT SATHE): (a) No, Sir, except occasionally due to strike etc.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Although the telecommunication service at Tripura and State capital at Agartala are functioning satisfactorily. Following steps are being taken to improve it further:

(i) For preventing faults in local system at Agartala, upgradation of underground cables and rehabilitation of Distribution points have been initiated.

(ii) For improve reliability of telecom. networks to other smaller stations, including sub-divisional headquarters, smaller capacity wireless system are being proposed between Capital Agartala and the stations during 8th Plan.

Fall in the standard of industrial goods

2617. SHRIMATI BIJOYA CHAKRAVARTY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the industrial goods produced in India are far below the international standards and their prices in domestics, markets, too, are very high; and

(b) whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to inquire into the causes of the low standards of industrial goods?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) It will not be correct to make a general statement that the industrial goods produced in India are far below the international standards and their prices in domestic markets, too, are very high. So far as quality aspect is concerned the Bureau of Indian Standards under its Certification Marking Scheme, ensures quality levels conforming to relevant Indian Standards. In order to make the Indian industry quality conscious, efforts are made to expose the Indian industries to international markets by allowing imports of certain goods under OGL and/or making BIS standards mandatory for large number of goods/commodities.

As regards prices, there are a number of products for which our prices are lower than international prices. Government's main thrust is also to make the Indian industries internally competitive and cost efficient.

(b) In specific areas where quality levels of industrial goods are below the required standards, BIS identifies the deficiencies and causes thereof and provides guidance and assistance for quality improvement.

Prices of medicines

2618. SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appear-

ed in the Economic Times of February 4, 1988 under the caption "Press on reliefs to users, drugs fibre units told";

(b) whether it is a fact that the prices of medicines have already gone up from 50 per cent to 250 per cent during the last two months and are likely to go further up by 15 per cent due to excise duty in the proposed budget;

(c) if so, what are the names of these medicines on which excise duty has been imposed/enhanced along with their sales turn-over;

(d) whether it is also a fact that Government has recommended concessions in customs duty on penultimates and intermediates; and

(e) if so, whether such a step is likely to discourage production from the basic stages?

THE MINISTER OF INUDSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The impact of excise duty on prices of drugs will vary from drug to drug.

(c) All formulations in category I are exempt from excise duty. All single ingredient Category II formulations now carry a reduced excise duty of 10 per cent *ad valorem* except those in the attached statement (*See* below) which are exempt from excise duty. De-controlled formulations, except those specifically exempt, will carry excise duty of 15 per cent *ad valorem*.

(d) and (e) Reduction in the rate of customs duty on some drug intermediates has been effected with a view to rationalising duty on drugs and to discouraging the import of bulk drugs.

Statement

Sl. No.	*Name of the bulk drug*
1.	Dexamethasone
2.	Dipyridamol
3.	Hydralazine
4.	Isosorbide
5.	Methyldopa
6.	Nifedepine
7.	Nikethamide
8.	Propranolol
9.	Reserpine
10.	Verapanil
11.	Chlorpropamide
12.	Glipizide
13.	Glybenclamide
14.	Insulin
15.	Phenformin
16.	Tolbutamide
17.	Ethionamide
18.	Cycloserine
19.	Morphazinamide
20.	Prothionamide
21.	Pyrazinamide
22.	Primaquin
23.	Totequina and Cinchona famrifuge
24.	Mepacrine
25.	Vinblastin
26.	Vincrastin

Probe by MRTP Commission

2619. SHRI HASHIM RAZA ALLAHABADI ABDI: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that on receipt of numerous complaints the MRTP Commission have probed into the fake degree racket due to which a number of Indians have received fake degree from foreign Universities; and

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) As